COMIX WORLD 168. March 15, 1981. ©Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. Logo by Jim Ryan, editor of PARANOIA PSYCHOMIX, author editor of NOTARY SOJAC, and cover artist for COMIX WAVE #1. Jim's two mini-comix are superlative examples of the versatility of the genre. You can still get PSYCHOMIX and SOJAC from him; both for $1.50 and a 28¢ stamp. 102 S. Lake Avenue, Albany, N. Y. 12208. COMIX WAVE will be our club magazine. The first issue is printed. It contains 16 pages of artwork by Ryan, Valentino, Brinkman, Oliver, Miller, Holman, Vincent, and Weiland. It's digest-sized and costs $1.50 postpaid. Order a couple now from COMIX WORLD. If you haven't gotten your copy of THE COLLECTORS' GUIDE TO NEWAVE COMIX, it's still available for $2.41pp from CW.* R. Crumb is doing a new magazine called WEIRDO. The first one should be out from Last Gasp Comix this month. CW will preview it next issue.* PANELS 2 is out with a lot of great material on Carl Barks.* ECLIPSE will do a magazine which will contain some material on undergrounds. Howard Cruse is involved.* LES NICKELETTES, those great ladies who did the comic book show at our underground con in Berkeley in 1975, are hosting their second annual PAJAMA-RAMA on Saturday, March 21 at Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez (near Clipper) in San Francisco. Take $5 and wear very little. The Nicks are collaborating with Diane Noomin on a dramatization of the life story of Didi Glitz, I'D RATHER BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE. The show is scheduled to open July 9 at the Performance Space. More details later.* At the Creation Con (held March 7 & 8), Bruce Chrislip monitored a panel on Newave and alternative comix. Sitting in were Dan Taylor, Michael Roden, and Don Marsh. Rumor is Creation will hold a con in San Francisco this June.* Showing influences as diverse as Rory Hayes and John Thompson, Michael Roden has published three comic books, two issues of ORACLE COMIX (no doubt with a nod to the great San Francisco tabloid ORACLE--1966-67), and CLUSTER-LAND. These are 24 page comic books, not minis. $1.50pp each and worth the price.* Joe Zabel is working on a second issue of AGENT GEDON, which was, in my estimation, one of the best alternative comix of 1980.* Oops, address for those ORACLES is 611 Garfield Ave, Milford, OH 45150.* Every once in awhile I get letters asking me what the terms mean. We forget that newcomers are not accustomed to the language used among comix afficionados so I'll just run down a few definitions for you. UNDERGROUND. This idea probably started with the pictures on the wall of Plato's cave in THE REPUBLIC. In the late 1800s, it referred to the network set up by abolitionists to smuggle slaves out of the deep south into free states, an "underground railroad." I was in Iowa a couple of years ago and visited a small museum which contained a lot of artifacts from this period, including underground caves where the slaves hid in mid-journey. In the mid-1930s, Albert Camus wrote for what was considered the underground press of the time. His political writings were published in Le Combat. The underground was made up of those who resisted the Nazis. In America in the 60s the Underground Press consisted of a network of papers which resisted the draft and argued editorially against the war in Viet Nam. By extension, underground comix were those which rejected the Comics Code of 1954. It was Harvey Kurtzman who originated the idea on the cover of MAD #16. Robert Crumb defined himself as an "underground cartoonist" on the inside cover of his early ZAP COMIX. The term became popular and was adopted by most of the anti-establishment cartoonists who grew to maturity during the sixties. The comix were never underground in the sense that the artists could be imprisoned for doing them (as Camus and friends could have been for COMBAT). While they were frequently busted, the artists were never cited; those who sold them usually had to deal with the courts and the fines. It's worth noting that the little magazines were in the avant-garde in the late fifties and early sixties. Poets like Allen Ginsberg became political heroes when their books were busted for obscenity. Stand-up comic Lenny Bruce (Leonard Schneider) was a hero to many for his act. It was Bruce who was the role model for Joel Beck's LENNY OF LAREDO (1965). Before Underground comix, there was only the Eastern establishment, the kid comics, the comics controlled by the code. Undergrounds changed the entire comics scene by creating an alternative industry and a completely new form of distribution.

TERMS, cont'd) ALTERNATIVE. Just another word for undergrounds. A way of distinguishing between one group of ugs and another. To the in-group, only ZAP, BIJOU, and a few other books were truly ugs. The others were Alternative comics, meaning simply that they were an alternative to Marvel/DC etc. Mike Friedrich called his STAR*REACH a ground-level comic. He did this to distinguish it from both Marvel and underground. A company like Eclipse is coming from this middle-ground. NEWAVE was coming along while the UNDERGROUND was peaking. It's simply a term that distinguishes this generation of cartoonists from their underground predecessors. NEWAVE comix can be any size, number of pages, color, shape, while ug comix are usually 32pp of B/W artwork with a 4-color cover. NEWAVE means small print runs. Terms are never absolute and today one finds underground artists contributing to overground mags while Newavers often try to get into ugs. Today we have no underground press, but should the situation in El Salvador become

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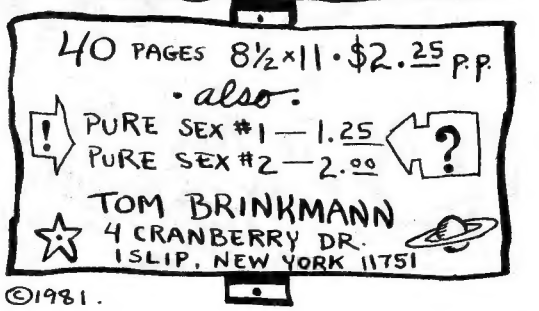
analogous to Viet Nam with Americans being drafted and sent there, it's likely this generation of young people will start their own version of the underground press that flourished in the sixties. Exposure in the ug press gave underground cartoonists an advantage newavers do not have. Newave has reverted to what is basically a little magazine movement similar to that of the Beat fifties. I'm thinking of GIZMO!, YIKES!, CASCADE, FEVER PITCH, CITY LIMITS. C.G.

Bobby Sommerkamp has three new titles (minis) out. $2 for all GROSS, FRIENDLY GARBAGE, TALES FROM THE REAR OF THE CLOSET. 16 pagers. Nice. POB 20196, St. Pete, FLA 33742.*

BECAUSE POSTAGE AND PRINTING COSTS HAVE GONE UP AND UP, I WILL RAISE MY RATES MAY 1. If you want to renew your sub to the newsletter at the current rates, do it now. $10 for 48. May 1 and after it will be $11 for 48. U.S. only. Canada: $14 for 48 now, $15 in May. Europe: $14 for 24 now. $15 in May. -CLAY GEERDES 3/81



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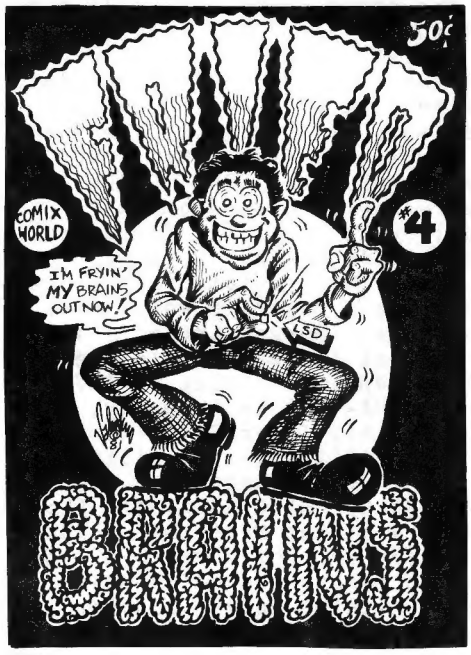

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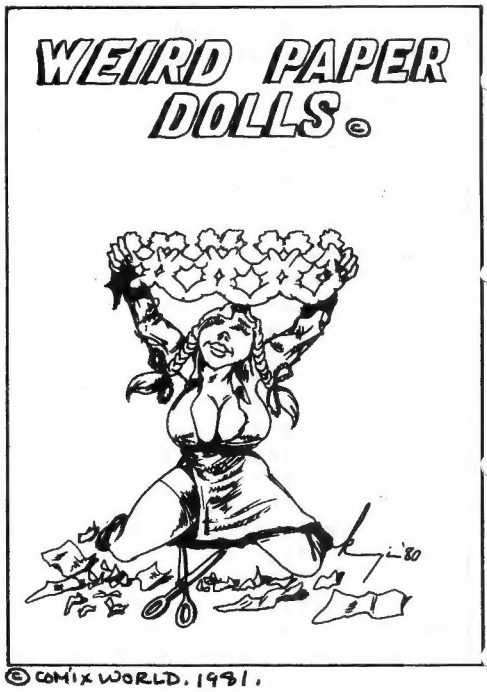

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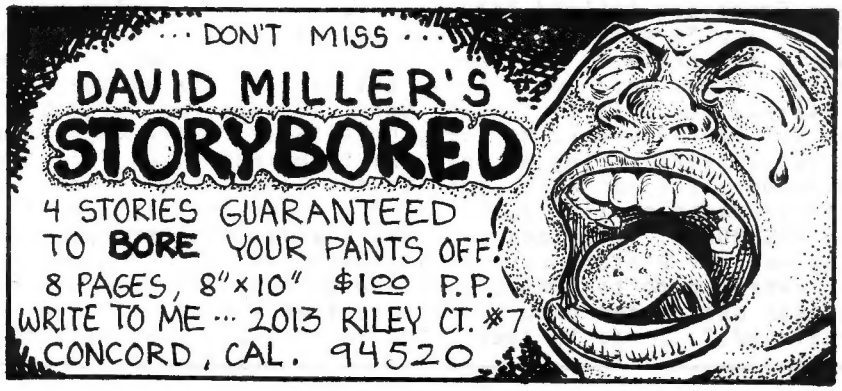
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